United Nations S/2018/291

Security Council

Distr.: General
3 April 2018
English
Original: Arabic

Letter dated 29 March 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, and in accordance with article 35 of the Charter of the United Nations, which provides that any Member of the United Nations may bring to the attention of the Security Council or of the General Assembly any dispute or any situation the continuance of which is likely to endanger the maintenance of international peace and security, I write to you to inform you of an incident perpetrated by the State of Qatar that posed a threat to the security and safety of international civil aviation.

In that connection, I should like to remind you of our previous letter dated 15 January 2018 addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2018/46), in which we informed the Council of two aviation incidents that took place on 15 January 2018, in the course of which Qatar put the lives of 298 passengers at risk when its combat aircraft came dangerously close to two civilian aircraft registered in the United Arab Emirates (Emirates airlines UAE837/EK837 and Etihad airlines ETD23B/EY371), even though those two civilian aircraft were flying along agreed-upon international airways.

Unfortunately, the State of Qatar persists in carrying out irresponsible acts that threaten the safety of United Arab Emirates-flagged civilian flights. On Monday, 26 March 2018, at 1135 hours local time, two Qatari combat aircraft approached an Emirati Airbus A320 (registration no. A6-HMS) as it was flying along international airway UL-768 inside the flight information region of the Kingdom of Bahrain. The Qatari combat aircraft came dangerously close to the civilian aircraft, activating the collision avoidance system's alarm and forcing the captain of the civilian aircraft to climb to a higher altitude to avoid a potential collision. It should be noted that the State of Qatar did not provide any prior navigation notice to air traffic control in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Please find annexed maps illustrating the above-mentioned incident. The maps show that the State of Qatar flagrantly violated international civil aviation laws and regulations. It should be noted that the United Arab Emirates has already notified the International Civil Aviation Organization of the incident that occurred on 26 March 2018 in accordance with the established procedures for ensuring the security and safety of civil aviation traffic.

It is clear that the regrettable and dangerous incidents mentioned above, the deliberate ongoing Qatari threat to the freedom of international aviation and the risk posed to the safety of civilian passengers all constitute behaviour that will inevitably

lead to international friction and the creation of a dispute in the sense provided for in article 34 of the Charter of the United Nations.

Lastly, the United Arab Emirates would like to reaffirm its full commitment to the security and safety of international aviation traffic, and its absolute compliance with the international laws, principles and procedures in force in that regard.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Lana Zaki **Nusseibeh**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex to the letter dated 29 March 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

ANNEX PAGE 1

[*Box at top right with two lines of text*]: Kingdom of Bahrain flight information region

[*Small box in the middle of the page*]: Airbus

[*Small box at left of page*]: Qatari combat aircraft

[*Large box at lower right of page*]:

Interception of a civilian A320 aircraft on 26 March 2018

Coordinates: E 0513643 N 261932

Altitude of civilian aircraft: 32,000 feet

Altitude of Qatari combat aircraft: 26,000 feet

At precisely 1134 hours, two Qatari combat aircraft appeared at the spot indicated with transponder codes 2340-2341. They approached the Airbus in an attempt to intercept it even though the Airbus was outside Qatari sovereign airspace. It was following international airway UL-768 and under the jurisdiction of Bahrain air traffic control.

ANNEX PAGE 2

[*Box at top right with two lines of text*]: Kingdom of Bahrain flight information region

[*Higher of two boxes in the middle of the page*]: Airbus

[*Lower of two boxes in the middle of the page*]: Qatari combat aircraft

[*Large box at lower right of page*]:

Series of events

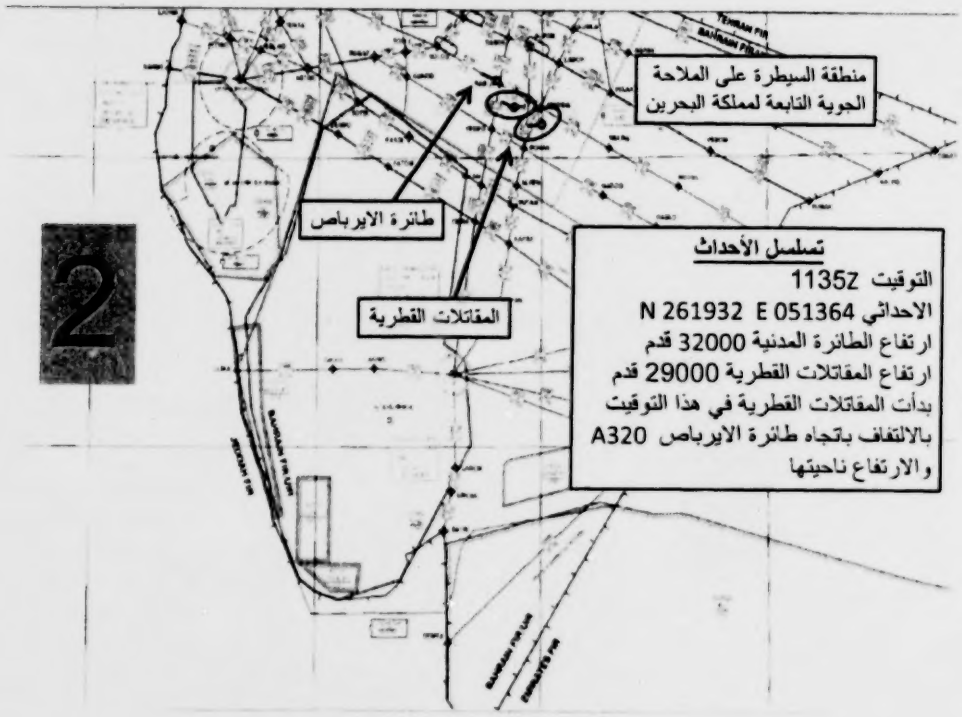
Time 1135Z

Coordinates: E 051364 N 261932

Altitude of civilian aircraft: 32,000 feet

Altitude of Qatari combat aircraft: 29,000 feet

At this time, the two Qatari combat aircraft turned in the direction of the Airbus A320 and climbed towards it.



ANNEX PAGE 3

[*Box at top right with two lines of text*]: Kingdom of Bahrain flight information region

[*Higher of two boxes in the middle of the page*]: Airbus

[*Lower of two boxes in the middle of the page*]: Qatari combat aircraft

[*Large box at lower right of page*]:

Series of events

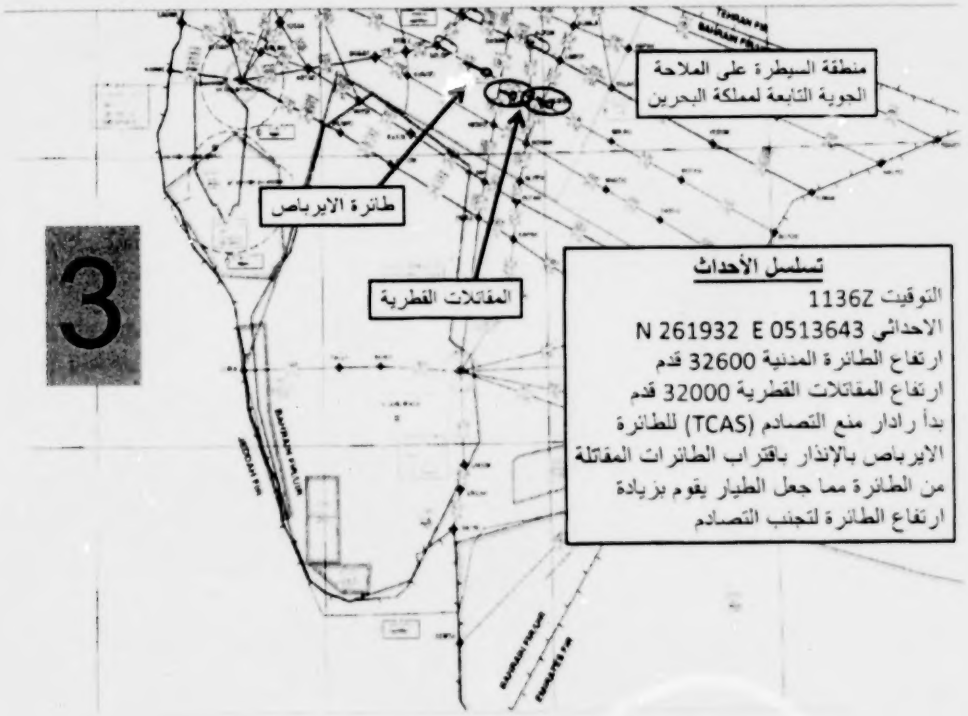
Time 1136Z

Coordinates: E 0513643 N 261932

Altitude of civilian aircraft: 32,600 feet

Altitude of Qatari combat aircraft: 32,000 feet

The traffic collision avoidance system (TCAS) of the Airbus warned of the approach of the combat aircraft, forcing the pilot to increase his altitude to avoid a collision.



ANNEX PAGE 4

[*Box at top right with two lines of text*]: Kingdom of Bahrain flight information region

[*Higher of two boxes in the middle of the page*]: Airbus

[*Lower of two boxes in the middle of the page*]: Qatari combat aircraft

[Large box at lower right of page]:

Series of events

Time 1137Z

Coordinates: E 0513643 N 261932

Altitude of civilian aircraft: 35,000 feet

Altitude of Qatari combat aircraft: 34,000 feet

At this point, one of the Qatari combat aircraft approached within 200 metres of the Airbus with manifest recklessness, thereby violating international civil aviation laws.

ANNEX PAGE 5

[*Box at top right with two lines of text*]: Kingdom of Bahrain flight information region

[*Higher of two boxes in the middle of the page*]: Airbus

[*Lower of two boxes in the middle of the page*]: Qatari combat aircraft

[*Large box at lower right of page*]:

Series of events

Time 1138Z

Coordinates: E 0511422 N 262535

Altitude of civilian aircraft: 35,000 feet

Altitude of Qatari combat aircraft: 34,000 feet

At this point, the two Qatari combat aircraft disengaged from the Airbus and descended to 26,000 feet, and the interception ended.